

Parents Against Irradiation, Inc.

P.O. Box 467

Papaikou, HI 96781

808-934-7996 6314 '99 MAY 24 P12:39

May 15, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food

To Whom It May Concern:

Parents Against Irradiation, Inc. is a grassroots organization that gathered over 10,000 signatures in opposition to the construction of a food irradiation facility on the Big Island of Hawaii. I am writing on behalf of its members to urge you not to remove FDA regulations requiring foods that have been processed with irradiation to be clearly labeled as such.

We know that there is a difference of opinion among many people regarding the safety of irradiated foods. But we believe that the FDA has a duty to protect consumers by providing them the information they need to make a free and informed choice about the foods they buy.

It has been established by FDA and others that irradiation can produce changes in food texture, flavor, and shelf life, among other qualities, which are not obvious to the consumer. The consumer therefore has a right to know that this process has been used, just as with any process or additive which affects the quality of food.

The label should be prominently displayed on the front of the package, or, in the case of foods sold without packaging, on a poster prominently displayed near the food. The label should include both the words "irradiated" or "treated with irradiation" and the international "radura" symbol. Misleading terms such as "cold pasteurization" should not be used.

Accurate and effective labeling is an essential safeguard for the consumer. Please do not remove this important requirement.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Naomi Cohen
President

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